

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 06253

SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA, C3I AND DDR&E.

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI
SUBJECT: LONG TERM INITIATIVES - FRENCH PARTICIPATION

REF: A. STATE 150638 DTG 282241Z JUN 77. B. USNATO 5937,
DTG 241247Z JUN 77.

1. REF A REQUESTED MISSION VIEWS ON PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF
POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO LONG TERM INI-
TIATIVES. REF B FORWARDED ASYG LABERGE'S LETTER TO SYG
LUNS ON FRENCH INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION IN THE INITIA-
TIVES. IN REF B, WE RECOMMENDED THAT, IF ASKED, WE
SUPPORT LABERGE'S SUGGESTION TO REQUEST SHAPE AND CINCHAN
TO PROVIDE PROGRESS REPORTS ON EW, C3 AND AIR DEFENSE TO
THE NADREPS IN A SIMILAR FASHION TO THAT DESCRIBED FOR THE
RATIONALIZATION INITIATIVE.

2. THE ADVANTAGE OF THE LABERGE SUGGESTION IS THAT THE
CNAD (REPRESENTED BY THE NADREPS) IS A NAC BODY, AND
FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE FRENCH. MARTRE'S SUGGESTION
(PARA 2, REF A) TO HAVE THE TASK FORCES SUBMIT PARALLEL
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REPORTS TO THE EWG AND THE AHC ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERA-
BILITY (AHC/EI), OR SOME OTHER NAC-ESTABLISHED AD HOC
GROUP, IS A POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE SUGGESTION FOR THE
ENTIRE LONG TERM INITIATIVES EFFORT. WE BELIEVE THAT A
US-LED ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE TASK FORCES REPORT IN SOME FORM
TO THE AHC/EI WOULD BE VIEWED BY OUR ALLIES AS ANOTHER US
PLOY TO KEEP THE AHC/EI ALIVE. COMMENT: WE WILL SOON

COMMENCE OUR SEMI-ANNUAL DEBATE ON EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE AHC/EI BEYOND DECEMBER 1977. IN VIEW OF OUR PAST EXPERIENCE ON THIS QUESTION AND RECENT SOUNDINGS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND ASSOCIATING THE LONG TERM INITIATIVES WITH EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE AHC/EI. AS WE HAVE REPORTED MANY TIMES IN THE PAST, OUR ONLY SUPPORT FOR EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE AHC/EI HAS COME FROM THE FRENCH. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT TRYING TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER AD HOC GROUP UNDER THE NAC FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF REVIEWING TASK FORCE REPORTS WOULD ONLY BE VIEWED AS AN AHC/EI UNDER ANOTHER NAME AND WOULD HAVE NO SUPPORT WITH THE ALLIES. END COMMENT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON MAKING FRENCH PARTICIPATION ON THE LONG TERM INITIATIVES OPERATIVE THROUGH THE CNAD ORGANIZATION.BENNETT

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